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Norman Cross Rural District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

UPON THE

Sanitary Condition of the District during the year 1945.

To the Norman Cross Rural District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL,

I beg to submit the Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the district for the year ending 31st December, 1945.

The report has been constructed on similar lines as last year's report, as requested by the Ministry of Health.

STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health ..... V. D. BUCHANAN, L.R.C.P. & S. Ed.

Sanitary Inspector ..... G. F. TAYLOR, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area	35795 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1945)	6990
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1945	2187
Rateable Value	£28,608
Value of Penny Rate	£119

The Norman Cross Rural District consists of 16 parishes, a number of which are situated on the extensive deposit of Oxford Clay which forms the Fletton Brickfields in which a great many inhabitants of the district find employment.

With this exception the population is solely employed in agriculture. The South Western portion of the district is Fen Lands, land recovered by an extensive drainage system some fifty years ago, from what was formerly Whittlesea Mere.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS	Birth Rate per 1000 population	21.1
STILL BIRTHS	Rate per 1000 total births	38.9
DEATHS	Death rate per 1000 population	11.1
	Deaths from Puerperal Causes rate per 1000 total births	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under One Year of age:—	
All infants per 1,000 live births	33.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	37.5
Illegitimate ,, ,, ,, illegitimate ,, ,, ...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	10.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1

RATES

	Per 1,000 Population			Per 1,000 Live Births
	Live Births	Still Births	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
Norman Cross R.D.C.	21.1	0.85	11.1	33.7
England & Wales	16.1	0.46	11.4	46

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures):—

Causes of Death.	Males	Females	Totals
All Causes.	41	36	77
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	1	—	1
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—	—
8. Syphilitic disease	—	—	—
9. Influenza	1	—	1
10. Measles	—	—	—
11. Ac. polio-myel. & polio-enceph.	—	—	—
12. Ac. inf. enceph.	—	—	—
13. Cancer of buc. cav. & oesoph. (M) uterus (F)	1	1	2
14. Cancer of stomach & duodenum	—	2	2
15. Cancer of Breast	—	—	—
16. Cancer of all other sites	3	3	6
17. Diabetes	—	—	—
18. Intracranial vascular lesions	—	6	6
19. Heart disease	11	15	26
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	—	—	—
21. Bronchitis	3	—	3
22. Pneumonia	5	—	5
23. Other respiratory diseases	1	1	2
24. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	—	2
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	—	1
26. Appendicitis	—	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases	1	—	1
28. Nephritis	—	—	—
29. Puer. & post-abort. sepsis	—	—	—
30. Other maternal causes	—	—	—
31. Premature Birth	1	—	1
32. Con: mal. birth inj. infant. dis.	—	—	—
33. Suicide	—	—	—
34. Road Traffic Acc.	1	—	1
35. Other violent causes	2	3	5
All other causes	7	5	12

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(a) **Laboratory Facilities:**

No change has taken place in the general arrangements during the past year. Bacteriological specimens from Practitioners in the district are examined and reported upon at the Pathological Department of the Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, or by the Pathological Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

(b) **Ambulance Facilities:—**

(1) For the removal of infectious cases a motor ambulance is available at the Isolation Hospital, Huntingdon.

(2) For non-infectious and accident cases excellent provision is made by Peterborough City Authority and London Brick Company.

(c) **Nursing in the Home:—**

Nursing in the district is carried on by the District Nursing Associations under the supervision of the County Council. The nurses employed carry out the general nursing in the district, attend the majority of maternity cases.

No provision is made for the home visiting of Measles, Whooping Cough and Infantile Diarrhoea.

All cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor and a report with details of home conditions and circumstances is completed.

(d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres:—**

Infant Welfare work in the ~~district~~ TARGET AREA is carried out under the auspices of a voluntary body, the Fletton, Woodston and Stanground Infant Welfare Association, at their clinic in London Road. The Infant Welfare Clinic has weekly sessions on Tuesdays from 2 to 4 p.m.

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In addition the Hunts.County Council provide the following Clinics:-

YAXLEY

An Infant Welfare Centre is held at the Village Hall every 4th Friday in the month from 2.30 - 4.30pm.

ELTON

In April 1945 an Infant Welfare Centre was opened in this Village. This Centre also serves the surrounding villages. It is held in the Heighgate Hall on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 2.30 - 4.30pm.

The Hunts. County Council provide the following health services: –

School Clinic (Minor Ailment)	London Road Clinic, Old Fletton, Every Wednesday 9-30—12.
Eyes	London Road Clinic. By Appt.
Dental Clinic	High Street, Old Fletton.
Tuberculosis	High Street, Old Fletton.
Orthopaedic	Memorial Hospital, Peterborough, Every Monday 2-15 p.m. By Appt.
Nose, Throat & Ear Clinic.....	Memorial Hospital every Wednesday at 3 p.m. By Appt.
Venereal Diseases	28, Fitzwilliam Street, Peterborough. Men—Tuesday and Friday 6—8 p.m. Women—Tuesday and Friday 3-30—6 p.m.

Under the Ante and Post Natal Scheme, provided by the County Council, expectant mothers are examined twice during their pregnancy (or oftener if necessary) and once after confinement.

(e) **Hospitals—Public and Voluntary :—**

(1) Fever—The treatment of infectious diseases is carried out at the Hospital for Infectious Diseases at Huntingdon, which is provided by the Joint Hospital Board.

(2) The Peterborough Memorial Hospital continues to carry out the general hospital service in the district. At this hospital facilities for In-patient and Out-patient treatment of General Medical or Surgical Cases are available.

(3) **Maternity Hospital :—**

Provision is made for the reception of Maternity Cases into either, the Emergency Maternity Hospital, Paxton Park. or St. John's Hospital, Peterborough.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Surveyor's Office,
Booster Station,
Yaxley, Peterborough.

To the Medical Officer of Health

Sir,

I beg to present my first Report for the year ended 31st December, 1945.

The statement covers the period from the 1st August when my duties commenced and amplifies the precis required for comparative information by the Hunts. County Council.

The period has been one of increasing activities, showing a desire to repair the wastage of the war years and to resume many schemes which have been held in abeyance, and also an increasing measure of control necessary in the interests of essential works.

New Housing.

The programme for the district is large and the need for long term planning is important. The activities of the Buildings Committee have been directed to the acquisition of Housing sites large enough for estate development sufficient for 5—10 years and the year closed with negotiations proceeding for sites in 10 parishes of 20 acres and land sufficient for 150 houses.

Water & Sewerage.

The need to complete the water schemes throughout the district is urgent. The five parish Sewerage Scheme is at the Ministry of Health awaiting approval and the sanitary arrangements in the other parishes call for detailed considerations and the preparation of of such schemes as may prove necessary in order that the Council may participate in the Government grant.

Refuse.

The need for a complete refuse collection scheme is indicated and for assistance in the emptying of cesspools and privy vaults etc., until the sewerage schemes are available which undoubtedly must take a considerable time when the amount of such work in the country as a whole is appreciated.

Housing Survey.

The rural housing survey has been started and the information will form the basis of the building programme but the first impression is that the standard of housing is low.

Cow Sheds.

I hope to be able to allow more time for the inspection of cowsheds and dairies. Arrangements have been made with the Peterborough Memorial Hospital to carry out Methylene Blue and Bacteriological examinations of milk samples.

Summary of Visits.

The following Summary gives the number of inspections and visits carried out in the five months.

Inspections re Nuisances	102
,, ,, Infectious Diseases	10
,, ,, Cowsheds & Dairies	11
,, ,, Housing Acts	42
,, ,, Council & other houses	145
,, ,, War Damage	7
,, ,, Salvage	11
,, ,, Water Supply	204
,, ,, Rats & Mice	5
,, ,, Factories & Workshops (including Bakehouses)	12
,, ,, Sewers & Works	51
,, ,, New Housing Sites	35
,, ,, New Buildings and Civil Licences	85
,, ,, Caravans &c.	18
,, ,, New Drains	33
, ,, Refuse Collection	12
,, ,, Interviews & Committees	98
Total	881

Plans.

The following 59 plans were deposited :—

Garages 5; New Dwellings 21; Additions and alterations to dwellings 20; Conversions to dwellings 3; Greenhouses 2; Farm Buildings 2; Alterations to Schools 2; Movable Buildings 4.

Each plan is considered and dealt with under Building Bye-laws and Town Planning this Council being the Interim Development Authority under the Town & Country Planning Acts and acting in conjunction with the Joint County Advisory Committee.

Total No. of Inspections re Nuisances 102
,, ,, ,, Notices served 46
(Informal ..... 46 Statutory ..... Nil)

Complaints received	Total No. of	.....	66
Premises, houses, etc.	No. inspected	.....	42
	Nuisances abated	.....	25
Pool, ditch, gutter, watercourse	No. inspected	.....	22
	Nuisances abated	.....	6
Animals improperly kept	No. inspected	.....	Nil
	Nuisances abated	.....	Nil
Privy, urinal, cesspool, ashpit	No. inspected	.....	17
	Nuisances abated	.....	12
Drain, Drain-traps, etc., etc.	No. inspected	.....	19
	Nuisances abated	.....	11
House, or part thereof, overcrowded	No. inspected	.....	1
	Nuisances abated	.....	1
Smoke nuisances	No. of observations	.....	Nil
	Nuisances abated	.....	Nil
Offensive accumulations	No. inspected	.....	1
	Nuisances abated	.....	1
Other sanitary conditions	No. inspected	.....	Nil
	Nuisances abated	.....	Nil
Slaughter houses	No. licensed or registered		Nil
	No. of inspections	.....	Nil
Offensive trades (Health Act 1936)	No. established	.....	1
	No. of inspections	.....	Nil
Housing Act, 1936	No. houses condemned		Nil
	No. closed	.....	Nil
	No. cleaned and limewashed		Nil
Food—seizures of unwholesome	No. of	.....	Nil
Infectious Disease	Houses affected with Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Erysipelas	.....	13
	Houses inspected	.....	13
	No. of inspections	.....	13
	Houses disinfected	....	13
	Schools ,,	.....	Nil
	Disinfectant used	Izal in rooms	
	Lots of clothing disinfected		Nil
	,, ,, destroyed		Nil

Privy Middens	New provided	Nil
	No. repaired	Nil
	No. converted to pails	1
	No. converted to W.C's	1
Pail or Earth Closets	New provided	1
	No. converted to W.C's	Nil
Water closets	New provided	7
	No. supplied with water	7
Ashbins	New provided	Nil
Water supply	Samples taken for analysis	3
	,, condemned	3
	Wells closed	Nil
	Wells cleansed, repaired, etc.	2
	Public supply substituted for well or pond	1
	Cisterns cleansed, repaired, covered	Nil
	Waste pipes disconnected from drain	Nil
Housing, etc., Act, 1936	No. houses closed	Nil
	,, ,, made habitable	25
	,, ,, demolished	1
Building Bye Laws adopted		15/7/39
Total Legal Proceedings, *i.e.*,	Summonses, etc.	Nil
	Convictions	Nil

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1937.

Factories	Total number on Register (including bakehouses)	33
	No. in which nuisances abated	Nil
Bakehouses	No. on register	8
	No. in which nuisances abated	1
Homework	No. of outworkers	Nil
	No. of Houses	Nil
	No. of infected houses	Nil

Conclusion.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Council for their courtesy and consideration in the difficult period of changes consequent upon my appointment, to the Medical Officer of Health and the Clerk of the Council for their valued help and to Mr. Hawkins, your late Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector for his help at the commencement of my duties.

GEO. F. TAYLOR,

2nd July, 1946. Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.

The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1945.

DISEASE	TOTAL	under 1 year	1 — 2	2 — 3	3 — 4	4 — 5	5 — 10	10 — 15	15 — 20	20 — 35	35 — 45	45 — 65	65 & upwards	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	8	—	—	1	—	2	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	6	—
Diphtheria	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3		—	1
Measles	67	3	4	5	8	8	33	2	1	2	1	—	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	24	1	4	4	2	3	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the first five months of the year, there was some prevalence of Whooping Cough and Measles within the area. Infection was of a mild form in both diseases and no deaths occurred.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The following table sets out the number of children immunised in the district, together with the figure of the total child population:—

Under 5 Years		Between 5—15 Years.	
Number immunised	Estimated Population	Number immunised	Estimated Population
244	589	1090	1160

Tuberculosis.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL :—	1	3	—	1	1	—	—	—

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936 dealing with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

V. D. BUCHANAN,

Medical Officer of Health.